



**For immediate release
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RED LINE SPEED RESTRICTIONS LIFTED ON THE LONGFELLOW BRIDGE

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. today announced that DCR's repair efforts on the Longfellow Bridge have progressed to the point where all speed restrictions on the Red Line can be lifted.

DCR officials and their consultants, as well as MassHighway officials and Federal Highway Administration officials, reviewed the repairs and all parties concur that the MBTA's Red Line trains can resume full operation at unrestricted speeds.

"I am very proud of the hard and efficient work of our DCR staff and engineers," said Commissioner Sullivan. "They were dedicated and committed to completing the repairs that allow the Red Line trains to resume their normal speed. I'd also like to offer my sincerest thanks to the public for the patience shown during this time."

Since August 2007, DCR has spent more than \$1 million on inspections and \$4.5 million on repairs to the Longfellow Bridge. More than 200 jack beams have been replaced, and more than 180 railing brackets have been repaired.

The agency estimates that 65 percent of the anticipated repairs have been completed, with full completion expected this fall. A revised bridge load rating will be conducted as soon as all the repairs have been completed, after which a determination will be made on traffic flow.

Until that work has been completed, DCR will continue restricting vehicular traffic to the two outside lanes of the bridge. Also, 20-ton trucks will continue to be prohibited from the Longfellow, and will be detoured to other bridges across the Charles River. These restrictions were imposed in late June following recommendations from the Federal Highway Administration.

"Nothing is more important to this agency than public safety," Commissioner Sullivan said. "DCR agrees with Federal Highway Administration officials that it's best to keep large trucks off the Longfellow Bridge until repairs are complete."

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.